-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Regarding the proposed settlement of the case Microsoft vs USA - this
settlement proposes to solve the problem of Microsoft's anti-competitive
behavior, and change the fact that competing in the markets (principly those
of operating systems and office software) that Microsoft control is currently
very difficult. A large part of that difficulty are problems with the
interoperability with those Microsoft systems - if I write some
wordprocessing software, for example, which is better than Microsoft Word, I
cannot hope to get any market penetration, due to the fact that my software
will not be able to be compatible with data generated by Microsoft's version
- - which is the current industry standard. This is obviously bad for
competition. The same is true of operating system protocols, notably the SMB
protocol that Microsoft use for networking file sharing and authentication -
they have frequently updated this so that other Operating Systems (for
example Linux) will not work correctly.

I think (and I know that I am not alone in this) that any attempt to make
that market more competative would have to begin my requiring MicMicrosoft
Settlement.rosoft to release details of these formats, and restrain from
making undocumented changes that break compatibility with other systems. If
this was the case, the software would have a greater chance of competing
purely on merit, which is, of course, the ideal.

Given that the proposed settlement has a Technical Oversight Committee to
ensure compliance with the judgement, I hope you will consider this as a
condition they should enforce, either that specifications for these are
released so that other software can be compatible with Microsoft products, or
that they should look closely at that issue with regards to deliberate
changes that they make to file formats and protocols, that are primarily
designed to break functionality, rather than implement new features, or if
new features are added, that this be done in such a way as to leave existing
functionality in place.

Yours Sincerely,
- --
Matthew Johnson. <techieguy@breathemail.net>

Why the EU-CD is bad - don't let this become law!
http://eurorights.org/eudmca/WhyTheEUCDIsBad.html

"They that would give up essential liberty for temporary safety
deserve neither liberty nor safety."

- -- Benjamin Franklin

"Those who desire to give up Freedom, in order to gain Security,
will not have, nor do they deserve, either one."
- -- Thomas Jefferson

- -----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----
Version: PGP 7.0.1

```
mQCNAzuzLw8AAAEEAOiQYP8oFvHZZ8d8jxaUBphUAe618Xs0unCujBt1Q6sPX4iU
aKiqaQfWPIr/QEcAX9FuPorqGk6gh7Ko84tlb/2YmH7wJSVybEVBOgCjGVhc7421
JYEyrhNUyMJA2OswFaEWpo3CpaLLwgZ/ZN/05ZAGE+vqYKt/lmeAk+ermhGZAAUR
tDFNYXR0aGV3IEphbWVzIEpvaG5zb24gPHRlY2hpZWd1eUBicmVhdGhlbWFpbC5u
ZXQ+
=QVI+
```
- -----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

- -----BEGIN GEEK CODE BLOCK-----
Version: 3.12 - http://www.geekcode.com/
GCS/M d-(+) s+:- a--(?) C++ UL>++ P-- L++@ E---- W+++>$ N+@ K- w M- PS+ PE
PGP++ t+ 5 X- R tv+(++) b++++ DI+ D++ G e h! !r y-
- ------END GEEK CODE BLOCK------

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: PGP 6.5.8

```
iQCVAwUBPB5VPGeAk+ermhGZAQFPgAP+PUCPG9mt8zR7Yuy7tin8yGf8wMRe4w4r
6r30AZbpQTOSYvC3uPgovxwW7HFzRWny6Q8HsLBhkgH7xxJlX3GA6YDvTCbNlGfy
HhH4cBasNjY2Dec4c9UgUjoF3u79rpjDgufeZB+TS7SH4cGk2QV1vYsRRXE7uJyz
NUpCQebDNLU=
=7HHL
```
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----